Sambalpur-Rourkela and Bhubaneshwar-Sambalpur road

1684. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the need to four-lane Sambalpur-Rourkela and Bhubaneshwar-Sambalpur-road;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the time frame fixed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Presently, the priority of this Ministry is to improve the riding quality of all the National Highways and four laning of the corridors included in the National Highway Development Project (NHDP). The road from Bhubaneshwar to Jagatpur has already been four laned. Four laning of the remaining stretches would be considered in a phased manner after the completion of riding quality improvement and NHDP depending on the availability of resources, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

1685. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rejected certain proposals of the State Governments for declaring State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) No, Sir. All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the respective State Governments. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into

National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Bridge on river Beas

1686. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridge on the River Beas at Jallandhar-Pathankot Highways is in a dilapidated condition and there is every likelihood of the bridge collapsing any time; and

(b) the agencies, responsible for upkeep and maintenance of this bridge and the action proposed to be taken to improve the condition of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The bridge is structurally safe. However, its wearing cost, footpath slab, expansion joint and railing need repair. An estimate amounting to Rs. 85.28 lakhs has been sanctioned for repair of the bridge. This bridge is being maintained by Punjab PWD on behalf of the Ministry. They will execute the repair works.

Kollan By-Pass Phase-II

1687. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Kerala seeking approval for the Kollan by-pass phase-II from Kilikollor to Kovandu;

(b) whether Government have accorded sanction for the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, by when the sanction is likely to be accorded;

(e) whether Government propose to construct the Bridges at 'Aravila' and 'Kandhanchira' in the above By-pass on BoT basis; and